

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11
NSC-05 OES-09 OMB-01 AID-05 /074 W
-----062992 080853Z /10

R 072129Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION GENEVA

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MEXICO FOR DEA; GENEVA FOR IO NARCOTICS ATTACHE; DEPARTMENT PASS
DEA FOR ENOL AND TRI

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CS
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR IN-COUNTRY TRAINING FOR GOCR NARCOTICS AGENTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EMBASSY NARCOTICS COMMITTEE REQUESTS SHORT-TERM
IN-COUNTRY TRAINING PROJECT IN COSTA RICA FOR SELECTED AGENTS
OF NARCOTICS BUREAU. TRAINING PROJECT COULD ALSO BE OPEN TO
HONDURAN NARCOTICS AGENTS IF EMBASSY/TEGUCIGALPA SO
DESIRES. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND HIS PRINCIPAL NARCOTICS
ADVISERS MET RECENTLY WITH EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND DEA
SAIC TO DISCUSS NEW GOCR ADMINISTRATION'S PLANNING AND
ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSES OF SUPPRESSING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN
NARCOTICS. DISCUSSION REVEALED THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION PLACES
HIGH PRIORITY ON INCREASING GOCR'S EFFECTIVENESS IN NARCOTICS FIELD
BUT LACKS SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE AND RESOURCES TO PROCEED VERY FAR
WITHOUT EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. AS FIRST STEP, EMBOFFS URGED MINISTRY
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OFFICIALS TO DRAW UP COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION
DOCUMENT, INCLUDING ANALYSIS OF PROBLEM, DEFINITION OF OBJECTIVES,
ETC. MINISTRY IS NOW ENGAGED IN THIS EFFORT, AND ONCE PLAN IS
COMPLETED, WE EXPECT WE WILL BE INVITED TO REVIEW IT AND OFFER
COMMENTS.

3. EVEN BEFORE PLAN IS COMPLETED, HOWEVER, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT ONE OF THE AREAS IN WHICH USG CAN COLLABORATE MOST EFFECTIVELY-- INDEED WHERE USG ASSISTANCE IS ALMOST AN IMPERATIVE -- IS IN TRAINING OF GOCR NARCOTICS AGENTS. FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT AT PRESENT TIME, DUE TO LARGE TURNOVER OF PUBLIC SECURITY PERSONNEL FOLLOWING CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIONS, ONLY TWO OF THE 56 NARCOTICS AGENTS HAVE ANY NARCOTICS-RELATED TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE. SINCE NARCOTICS AGENTS WILL BE ALMOST TOTALLY INEFFECTIVE WITHOUT SOME MINIMAL TRAINING, EMBASSY NARCOTICS COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THIS SITUATION BE ADDRESSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WITHOUT AWAITING FINAL ELABORATION OF COMPREHENSIVE NARCOTICS PLAN. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE AN IN-COUNTRY BASIC TRAINING PROGRAM OF TWO TO THREE WEEKS TO BE CONDUCTED BY A DEA TRAINING TEAM PREFERABLY IN JULY OR AUGUST.

4. DEA/SAIC HAS OBSERVED THAT HONDURAN NARCOTICS BUREAU IS ALSO STAFFED BY AGENTS WITHOUT TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE IN NARCOTICS. HE HAS SUGGESTED, THEREFORE, THAT IF A TRAINING PROJECT CAN BE MOUNTED IN COSTA RICA, A NUMBER OF SLOTS IN THE COURSE BE OFFERED TO THE GOH. IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT A BASIC TRAINING CLASS COULD ACCOMMODATE 35 STUDENTS, AND THEREFORE HE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT 20 SLOTS BE OFFERED TO GOCR AND 15 BE OFFERED TO GOH.

5. WHILE EMBASSY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER TO TRAIN 35 RATHER THAN 20 OF THE GOCR'S NEW AGENTS AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD NOT OPPOSE DISTRIBUTION OF SLOTS AS RECOMMENDED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAIC, PARTICULARLY SINCE JOINT TRAINING COULD ALSO LEAD TO FORMATION OF BENEFICIAL PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GOH AND GOCR NARCOTICS AGENTS.

6. DEA/SAIC INTENDS DISCUSS PROPOSAL WITH EMBASSY, TEGUCIGALPA AND TO REQUEST EMBASSY'S APPROVAL. HOWEVER, SHOULD EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NOT ENDORSE SUGGESTION OF GOH PARTICIPATION, WE WOULD WANTNXXO PROCEED WITH PROJECT FOR GOCR NARCOTICS AGENTS ALONE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL OF THIS PROPOSAL AND DEPARTMENT COORDINATION OF TRAINING PROJECT WITH DEA. WEISSMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, PERSONNEL TRAINING, DRUG TRAFFIC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANJO02902
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780280-0644
Format: TEL
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780785/aaaactvi.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c566479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2086039
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR IN-COUNTRY TRAINING FOR GOCR NARCOTICS AGENTS
TAGS: SNAR, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c566479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014